

**THE DAWGMEISTER'S WEEKEND FORECAST:
DAWGS SEND LAST TRANSFER U TO THE PORTAL**

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SEPARATED@BIRTH?



**THINKS HE'S
SPURRIER
DAN MULLEN**



**COULDN'T BE
SURLIER
SGT. CARTER**

SEPARATED@BIRTH? ARCHIVE

With the QB room depleted, Kentucky turned to a kid from deep in the roster, a guy who should have been working on his routes instead of taking snaps. Dawg fans wondered who this guy was, running circles around our defense. Although UK lost, the kid left us shaking our heads after he put up 38 points and nearly won the game. Who is this guy Randall Cobb?

That was 2008. 2019 found another UK WR playing QB like a jackrabbit, totaling 99 yards and 5.8 per carry. He came up 38 points short of what Cobb produced, but still played a heck of a game, especially if you ignore his 2-15 in the passing game.

But the Kentucky game left a lot of Dawg fans unsettled. Those who watched on TV heard Rod Gilmore criticize the playcalling about as severely as anyone could remember from a broadcaster. He also found continual fault with our WRs' difficulties in getting separation, leaving Fromm with little to choose from when he did drop back to pass. Too conservative, too predictable, too much running, too few open receivers, shoulda gone for it on 4th down, shouldn't-a gone for it on 4th. The Scowlmeister felt that Gilmore was way too easy on us: We are in an offensive crisis that will lead to defeat in Jacksonville. Well, at least we didn't use a fake punt from the Arkansas playbook.

But hold on.

First, we shut out Kentucky and won by 21, almost covering a PlayStation-like 24-point spread. The conditions were awful, suggesting that a ground game would be the surest

path to victory. And it was, even if it wasn't pretty for a half-and-a-half-quarter. We didn't throw much, or throw effectively, but Kentucky wasn't doing anything in the air either—13% completion for 17 yards—albeit with a guy more accustomed to catching passes than throwing them, a guy who runs like a deer and throws like one too.

I suspect that the game followed the plan established in the position rooms ahead of time. If Rod Gilmore was concerned that UGA plays not to lose instead of playing to win, at least it worked, and by a solid margin. On that field and in that slop, turnovers often produce upsets. A turnover created by our defense indeed made all the difference in the game. On a day when the [small-handed](#) Fromm had trouble gripping the ball, when our field position was awful for much of the game, when a [Kirby Smart Slip 'N Slide dive](#) might have been our best weapon, we didn't make the sort of mistake that can turn a game around fast and let an underdog change the dynamics of the game. When playing not to lose produces a win on a field with no footing and a slick ball, then maybe that's not so bad.

And you've got to give UK credit. They played us pretty tough for a team without an offense beyond their elusive QB becoming even more slippery when wet. If we had trouble moving the ball, then let's assume that Kentucky's defense was a factor. If our WRs couldn't get open, perhaps the UK DBs had something to do with it. They are not overwhelmingly talented overall, but they gave us a game till D'Andre Swift decided it was over. South Carolina showed everyone that being an underdog has little to do with game outcomes. Those Cats came to play, and they played well.

And if you're grumbling about the offense, take solace in the defense. They have played great all year and continue to improve. UK didn't have much firepower, but they did line up 11 guys on every play and barely moved the ball: 64 yards total other than what Lynn Bowden produced. The defenders are going to keep us in games even if the offense remains stuck in second gear, as they have the last 2 games.

At least, that's what I think. This naysayer, a guy who makes Jeff Schultz seem sunny and generous, thinks that the team is "not even close" to performing in ways that the statistics indicate. The defense, he said after the Kentucky game, was

extremely sloppy. And, you know, it's sad. When you watch that tape, there's a lot more concern. If you went to a coach and said, *Watch this game*, they'd come in and say, *That is atrocious*. Tackling, fits, eye-discipline, leverage, blockers. But we're walking around, whistling by the graveyard that 'everything's fine, that we're okay.' We have good defensive numbers, but that's not the case when you watch the true integrity of it. You can't judge it based on statistics, you can't judge it based on a kid playing in the pouring-down rain that's not a quarterback. We haven't been tested in that regard. We've got to get better, and that's what we're doing this week.

Well, if you think that Kirby Smart knows more about coaching defense than I do, then go ahead and think that our defense is on the brink of getting exposed, torched, and left in cinders. I watch games from the stands or the couch, and read stories online. The

Young Scowlmeister even occasionally sends me things from behind a paywall. That's how much I know. I think that qualifies me to have my opinion right there on a par with Coach Smart's.

I also, incidentally, know as much about space travel as NASA scientists. I've watched a lot of shows on the Discovery Channel, and have been on several long plane rides.

DAWGMEISTER GOOD WORKS OF THE WEEK

The Weekend Forecast is offered as a free service to its readers; neither the Dawgbone nor The Dawgmeister profits financially from its publication. If you read the Forecast and want to contribute something back to our communities, please consider making a donation to this week's featured Good Works service. There are many people living in needy circumstances, and every dollar helps to support them through another day, week, month, and year. This week's featured Good Works organization is

Feeding America is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. Thanks to donations and support from businesses, government organizations and individuals like you, the Feeding America network of food banks, pantries and meal programs serve virtually every community in the United States — 46 million people, including 12 million children and 7 million seniors.

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All the best to one of the best: A safe recovery for Mark Richt.

SAT PREP SESSION

SAT Question of the Day #1: What do the following people have in common? Carson Palmer, Byron Leftwich, Kyle Boller, Rex Grossman, Dave Ragone, Chris Simms, Seneca Wallace, Brian St. Pierre, Drew Henson, Brooks Bollinger, Kliff Kingsbury, Gibran Hamdan, and Ken Dorsey.

- A. Each had an affair with Bobby Petrino's wife.
- B. Each sent a letter of condolence to Zach Smith's wife.
- C. Each was told to buzz off by Tom Brady's wife.
- D. Each wonders how Ben Roethlisberger has a wife.

Answer: Each QB prospect was drafted by an NFL team in 2003, the year Tony Romo was an undrafted free agent.

DAWG DOOTS

- ☞ "Obviously, I'm a big anti-violence against women person." ~Dan Mullen
- ☞ "Me too." ~Urban Meyer
- ☞ Amount of UF severance payments for fired coaches in 2018: \$12+ million
- ☞ Not long ago, a QB who transferred was regarded as a failure. Now they are regarded as Heisman Trophy Award favorites.

IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME

Nic Claxton now running 5th team and off the active roster in Brooklyn instead of leading UGA to the tournament

Brooklyn Nets Depth Chart

[More NBA Teams](#)

Depth Chart

	STARTER	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH
PG	Kyrie Irving	Spencer Dinwiddie	Caris LeVert	-	-
SG	Joe Harris	Garrett Temple	Spencer Dinwiddie	Caris LeVert	Theo Pinson
SF	Caris LeVert	Dzanan Musa	Taurean Prince	David Nwaba	Garrett Temple
PF	Taurean Prince	Rodions Kurucs	Dzanan Musa	Henry Ellenson	Nicolas Claxton
C	Jarrett Allen	DeAndre Jordan	Nicolas Claxton	Henry Ellenson	-

THE COVETED DAWGMEISTER GOOD GUY OF THE WEEK AWARD GOOD GUY ARCHIVE

Kendall Baker played his high school ball at Marist in Atlanta, excelling on both lines of scrimmage. Depending on the service consulted, he was a 3 or 4 star recruit who was expected to play on the defensive line. His rankings reveal how different these evaluations can be: the state's #15 player according to Rivals, the state's #24 player to Scout and DawgPost, the #44 player according to 247Sports, and #47 to ESPN. Once at UGA, he was moved to the OL, redshirting and playing on the scout team as a freshman, then gradually increasing his action over the course of his first three years of eligibility, including 14 starts at left guard as a junior, when he also was one of two winners of the team's offensive Up-Front Award and one of the team's Most Improved Player Award winners. By his senior year, the team's recruiting at his position had taken a major upturn under Sam Pittman, and the competition, along with injuries, reduced his playing time, leaving him and his relatively small 305 pound frame as a backup. His response to the demotion shows what a Good Guy is made of. He'd worked his way onto the field through determination and hard work, yet was being pushed for time by the immense young pups brought in behind him. He began cross-training at guard and tackle to give Pittman flexibility, given the violence of the position. He never thought of transferring, however, because, as he said, the coaches know he "will never give up on them. I'm going to keep trying, keep fighting until the end." His teammates appreciated his dedication to the program and position room. As Jeb Blazevich said, "The fortitude that takes, I feel like staying mentally engaged, it's easy to quit. [Kendall is] somebody with a lot of character, a lot of integrity to say I'm here to work." Ultimately, it worked out pretty well for Kendall, who graduated with a sociology degree, helped by a Bill and Jane Young Football Scholarship, showing that Kendall Baker came to work in the classroom as well. The AJC's Chris Starr has called him "the walking representation of dogged perseverance." That sounds right to me.



THE FORECAST

DAWGS VS. FLORIDA

- 🗣️ “It’s basically a home game for us, and that’s what Coach Mullen says, ‘It’s our home game, it’s our field. We’re the Florida Gators, and we run this state so we’ve got to show everybody.’” ~University of Florida DL Jabari Zuniga
- 🗣️ “We have a bunch of fans come out there to that game, and we’re just right down the road. It feels just like a home game running out there with all the Florida fans, so it’s an awesome feeling.” ~University of Florida QB Felipe Franks
- 🗣️ “I feel like we have the same amount of talent as Georgia. It’s just the little things like turnovers like that that helped us lose the game. If we just come out and play our game, I feel like we can compete with anyone in the country.” ~University of Florida RB Lamical Perine explaining the 78-24 combined score of the last two UGA-Florida games
- 🗣️ “Extremely close, I really feel like we should have won the game last year.”
~University of Florida DL Jabari Zuniga interpreting the 2018 36-17 loss to UGA

And then came the Gators. The national narrative, and SEC narrative, is that Florida is trending up and UGA is trending down. Both teams have 2 weeks to write their story for 2019 and play whoever survives the West for the possibility of competing for that natty. JAX weather usually isn’t an issue, unless we have another hurricane, so let’s assume that the footing will be equal. Most observers think that we need to be less predictable (running on first and second down, throwing on third) and open the game up to get athletes in space. I don’t coach football, watch practices, study film, or do credit card commercials (yet), so am not the one to figure out the best strategy for this game. I do assume, though, that we will open things up a little more. Maybe a lot more, although the team’s identity is not invested in gimmick plays or finesse. It’s a power game designed to wear people down over the course of the day.

Florida plays good D, and so do we, so I’m not seeing this one burning out any scoreboards. I also don’t think their offense is so good. They have done surprisingly well with a weak QB room, and Trask might be a better option than the ever-unreliable Franks. But I don’t think their runners are above average for the SEC. I think we can keep them out of the end zone enough to come home a winner. Dawgs 24, Gators 17.

NATIONAL GAME OF THE WEEK: FLORIDA STATE OVER MIAMI

Amazingly enough, there is no great game this weekend outside Jacksonville. So I'm going to feature a game between two of the nation's most disappointing, underperforming programs in a game that once had national title implications. The Owlmeister took special pleasure in Miami losing to Georgia Tech in the Temple Bowl; not that he has any love for Collins, but Diaz's 2.5 weeks at Temple coach ended abruptly the second something better came along, and so he is the bigger bung-hole. Diaz said after stiffing Temple,

"Obviously we were all-in, because it was such a big deal at Temple to make sure that the next guy was going to be in for the long haul, and we wanted to be that guy. People we had met — whether it was [athletic director] Pat Kraft or members of the board of trustees who I really hit it off with — there is a great sense of letting people down. We are all human. On one hand, you had this job you wanted all your life, coaching at the University of Miami, and on the other hand, you had this other thing. Everybody, I think, was disappointed, but there was a sense of understanding. This would have been great and it would have been great for both of us. They knew Temple was going to be great for Manny Diaz and I believed it was, and I felt like I was going to be great for Temple. The fact that [the Miami job] moved that quickly to make a decision, in a weird way almost made it feel like it was more the right thing to happen."

Yes, Manny, we are all human. Some of us are just bigger assholes about it.

I have no love for Free Shoes University, but will pull for them over the team that calls itself The U, because no other university in the country has a U in its name. Florida State 13, Miami 12.

NATIONAL UPSET OF THE WEEK: GEORGIA SOUTHERN OVER APPALACHIAN STATE

No, not Wofford over Clemson. It's really a cruddy week for upset picks, so I'll go with a game in which, if the players exchanged uniforms, I couldn't tell the difference. This one's completely uninformed by "knowledge," much like most of what I do around here. GSU Book Burners 35, App State Butter Churners 34.